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**From:** Benevento, Douglas [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=93DBA0F4F0FC41C091499009A2676F89-BENEVENTO,]  
**Sent:** 5/18/2018 7:25:33 PM  
**To:** Smidinger, Betsy [Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov]; Thomas, Deb [thomas.debrah@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Stavnes, Sandra [Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov]; Strobel, Philip [Strobel.Philip@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: EPA awards BLM Vernal Environmental Planning Coordinator a National Honor Award Gold Medal

Great work

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**From:** Smidinger, Betsy  
**Sent:** Friday, May 18, 2018 9:26 AM  
**To:** Benevento, Douglas <benevento.douglas@epa.gov>; Thomas, Deb <thomas.debrah@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>; Strobel, Philip <Strobel.Philip@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: EPA awards BLM Vernal Environmental Planning Coordinator a National Honor Award Gold Medal

Doug and Deb – I wanted you to be aware of the recognition our NEPA team has received from DOI and EPA HQ. BLM appreciated having one of their employee's recognized on EPA's National Honor Award Gold Medal for the Monument Butte Air Quality Protection Team.

Betsy

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**From:** Tomiak, Robert  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 10, 2018 1:27 PM  
**To:** Strobel, Philip <Strobel.Philip@epa.gov>; Knight, Kelly <knight.kelly@epa.gov>; Dunning, Connell <Dunning.Connell@epa.gov>; Goforth, Kathleen <Goforth.Kathleen@epa.gov>; Hessert, Aimee <Hessert.Aimee@epa.gov>; Houston, Robert <Houston.Robert@epa.gov>; Militscher, Chris <Militscher.Chris@epa.gov>; Musumeci, Grace <Musumeci.Grace@epa.gov>; Nogi, Jill <nogi.jill@epa.gov>; Rudnick, Barbara <Rudnick.Barbara@epa.gov>; Schuller, Jennifer <Schuller.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Tapp, Joshua <Tapp.Joshua@epa.gov>; Timmermann, Timothy <Timmermann.Timothy@epa.gov>; Westlake, Kenneth <westlake.kenneth@epa.gov>; Moutoux, Nicole <Moutoux.Nicole@epa.gov>; Allnutt, David <Allnutt.David@epa.gov>; Anderson-Carnahan, Linda <Anderson-Carnahan.Linda@epa.gov>; Filippelli, John <Filippelli.John@epa.gov>; Forren, John <Forren.John@epa.gov>; Johnson, Kathleen <Johnson.Kathleen@epa.gov>; Lapp, Jeffrey <lapp.jeffrey@epa.gov>; Mitchell, Judy-Ann <Mitchell.Judy-Ann@epa.gov>; Monell, Carol <Monell.Carol@epa.gov>; Pomponio, John <Pomponio.John@epa.gov>; Saunders, Jerry <Saunders.Jerry@epa.gov>; Seager, Cheryl <Seager.Cheryl@epa.gov>; Smidinger, Betsy <Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov>; Stavnes, Sandra <Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov>; Tapia, Cecilia <Tapia.Cecilia@epa.gov>; Timmermann, Timothy <Timmermann.Timothy@epa.gov>; Torres, Ramon <Torres.Ramon@epa.gov>; Walsh-Rogalski, William <Walshrogalski.William@epa.gov>; Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Knight, Kelly <knight.kelly@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: EPA awards BLM Vernal Environmental Planning Coordinator a National Honor Award Gold Medal

I really appreciate the great work everyone is doing; and I see the impact through positive feedback inside the beltway from federal agency colleagues. I mentioned previously the FERC official who stood up in a high level meeting and offered how they thought our approach with them has been positive and our comments very helpful to their efforts. Just today, I received a call from my DOI colleague indicating that positive praise was recently provided by one of their Bureau Directors to the DOI DEPSEC about our community's collaborative efforts on several of their recent projects, to include intentionally looping them in on a sensitive project discussion about one of their projects to which they had not been invited.

We're operating in an environment where I believe we will ultimately get better environmental outcomes through our positive relationships and early engagement efforts. Keep making these positive impacts!

Thanks, Rob

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**From:** Strobel, Philip

**Sent:** Thursday, May 10, 2018 2:39 PM

**To:** Knight, Kelly <[knight.kelly@epa.gov](mailto:knight.kelly@epa.gov)>; Tomiak, Robert <[tomiak.robert@epa.gov](mailto:tomiak.robert@epa.gov)>; Dunning, Connell <[Dunning.Connell@epa.gov](mailto:Dunning.Connell@epa.gov)>; Goforth, Kathleen <[Goforth.Kathleen@epa.gov](mailto:Goforth.Kathleen@epa.gov)>; Hessert, Aimee <[Hessert.Aimee@epa.gov](mailto:Hessert.Aimee@epa.gov)>; Houston, Robert <[Houston.Robert@epa.gov](mailto:Houston.Robert@epa.gov)>; Militscher, Chris <[Militscher.Chris@epa.gov](mailto:Militscher.Chris@epa.gov)>; Musumeci, Grace <[Musumeci.Grace@epa.gov](mailto:Musumeci.Grace@epa.gov)>; Nogi, Jill <[nogi.jill@epa.gov](mailto:nogi.jill@epa.gov)>; Rudnick, Barbara <[Rudnick.Barbara@epa.gov](mailto:Rudnick.Barbara@epa.gov)>; Schuller, Jennifer <[Schuller.Jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:Schuller.Jennifer@epa.gov)>; Tapp, Joshua <[Tapp.Joshua@epa.gov](mailto:Tapp.Joshua@epa.gov)>; Timmermann, Timothy <[Timmermann.Timothy@epa.gov](mailto:Timmermann.Timothy@epa.gov)>; Westlake, Kenneth <[westlake.kenneth@epa.gov](mailto:westlake.kenneth@epa.gov)>; Moutoux, Nicole <[Moutoux.Nicole@epa.gov](mailto:Moutoux.Nicole@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: EPA awards BLM Vernal Environmental Planning Coordinator a National Honor Award Gold Medal

FYI: BLM sure appreciated this recognition. We should be on the lookout for more opportunities to include our federal partners in awards nominations.

Phil

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[http://www.ubmedia.biz/news/article\\_d683dea6-4e24-11e8-9126-e360f057c78f.html](http://www.ubmedia.biz/news/article_d683dea6-4e24-11e8-9126-e360f057c78f.html)

#### **EPA awards Vernal Environmental Planning Coordinator a National Honor Award Gold Medal**

Submitted by BLM

May 8, 2018

On April 4, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Green River District Manager, Gary Torres, presented Stephanie Howard with a "Gold Medal for Exceptional Service" award from the Environmental Protection Agency. Stephanie received this prestigious award for her work on the Monument Butte Air Quality Protection Team.

This interagency team of BLM and EPA professionals, developed an innovative air quality mitigation program that protects human health in Indian Country, while advancing energy development. The team's exemplary partnership also advanced the EPA's air quality and chemical safety strategic goals.

In the last ten years, elevated winter ozone has become an issue, primarily in oil and gas basins. Oil and gas fields include numerous emission sources from drilling, completion, production, storage and transport infrastructure. Energy development in those basins remains critical to fulfill existing federal lease obligations, support local economies and secure the nation's energy independence.

The Monument Butte Energy Project was proposed by the Newfield Production Company to expand oil and gas production in the Uinta Basin. The Basin is home to 20,000 Northern Ute Tribal members on the Uintah and Ouray Reservations. Initially, the Team's goal was to develop a "net zero" emission

strategy for this project, but it was determined to be technically impossible to account for the project's temporary and mobile source emissions. The Team persevered with its efforts to find a solution that could add 57 percent more wells in an impaired air shed without contributing to non-attainment of the ozone air quality standard.

The Team established principles that would have to be met by any mitigation solution. Any acceptable mitigation strategy had to be:

- Protective
- Accountable and Transparent
- Adjustable to Changing Regulatory Environment
- Flexible

These principles set a high bar and ensured that both the EPA and BLM's environmental protection objectives would be met, and they addressed Newfield's primary concerns. The Team also developed a strategy that allowed the company to proceed with the project while preventing objectionable impact to the environment.

The strategy components include:

- An Annual Emissions Balance Sheet to ensure that new stationary sources would not result in net increases of ozone-forming emissions.
- A Directed Inspection and Maintenance Program to detect and fix leaks and maintenance-related emissions.
- An Ozone Action Plan to shut down discretionary emissions during high ozone episodes.

Through the Team's tireless commitment to overcoming barriers, the BLM/EPA relationship is stronger than ever, Newfield's productions can expand, future successes are now possible on oil and gas projects nationally, and public health in the Uinta Basin will not be negatively impacted. The BLM is already applying this model with other projects.